

**BOARD OF ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW
AGENDA ITEM
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY FOR
UBMC TEMPORARY WATER QUALITY STANDARDS BRIEFING**

AGENDA # II.B.1

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

The department will update the Board about the Temporary Water Quality Standards for the Upper Blackfoot Mining Complex. The 2003 monitoring report and the 2004 work plan prepared by Asarco have been received. Mr. Chris Pfahl from Asarco will be present to address the Board and answer questions.

LIST OF AFFECTED RULES

NA

AFFECTED PARTIES SUMMARY

NA

SCOPE OF PROPOSED PROCEEDING

NA

BACKGROUND

Asarco petitioned the Board in November 1999 to begin rulemaking for temporary water quality standards for portions of the Blackfoot River, Mike Horse Creek and Beartrap Creek. The department was directed to begin rulemaking and in May 2000 the Board adopted the temporary standards. The Board recently held a triennial hearing (August 2003) pertaining to the temporary standards and decided to retain the existing standards with annual updates on progress in March each following year.

2003 activities include:

- Water quality monitoring samples were collected from Mike Horse and Beartrap Creek and the Blackfoot River.
- Water quality samples were collected from selected seeps near the dam.
- Macro-invertebrate samples were collected from the Blackfoot River and Beartrap Creek.
- Test pits were dug in the toe of the dam for a piping/stability investigation.
- Sediment samples were collected from the tailings pond for chemical analysis.
- Additional monitoring wells/piezometers were installed in the tailings dam.

HEARING INFORMATION

NONE

BOARD OPTIONS

NONE

DEQ RECOMMENDATION

NONE

ENCLOSURES

2003 Monitoring Report for the UBMC
2004 Work Plan (DRAFT)